

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MATAMO 00027 012255Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 PA-02 USIE-00 SSO-00 SS-15
NSCE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 /037 W
-----080537 012319Z /66

O R 012048Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL MATAMOROS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 418
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

UNCLAS MATAMOROS 0027

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, CGEN, MX
SUBJECT: U.S. FARMERS BLOCK INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE
REF: MATAMOROS 0026

FOLLOWING REPORT WAS FILED BY PRINCIPAL OFFICER FROM HIDALGO,
TEXAS:

1. AT 08:30 HOURS TODAY APPROXIMATELY 200 STRIKING AMERICAN
FARMERS WALKED TO THE HIDALGO-REYNOSA BRIDGE AND FOR TWO-FIVE
MINUTE PERIODS, STOPPED ALL TRAFFIC, WHILE THEY SPOKE TO
NEWS REPORTERS. THIS WAS AGREED TO BY THE HIDALGO COUNTY
SHERIFF WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF ALL SECURITY FORCES, PROVIDED
THE FARMERS WOULD LEAVE PEACEFULLY. THIS THEY DID.

2. AT 13:00 HOURS THE FARMERS CAME BACK AND WALKED STRAIGHT
INTO THE BRIDGE. AT FIRST THEY WERE ALLOWING VEHICLES TO
CROSS ALTHOUGH STOPPING SOME LONG ENOUGH TO PLACE ON THEM
BUMPER STICKERS WITH LEGENDS SUPPORTING THE FARMERS' STRIKE.
HOWEVER, AFTER ABOUT 10 MINUTES CAME FROM THE REYNOSA SIDE
A LARGE TRAILER TRUCK WITH 20 TONS OF WATERMELONS. THE FARMERS
MADE A BARRIER ACROSS THE BRIDGE AND, AFTER THE TRUCK STOPPED,
SOMEONE REMOVED THE KEY WHILE ANOTHER CUT THE AIR HOSES
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PREVENTING A TOW TRUCK FROM HAULING IT AWAY. AFTER 45
MINUTES THE HOSES WERE REPAIRED AND BEFORE TOWING THE TRAILER
AWAY THE SECURITY FORCES, ABOUT 60 OF THEM, THROWING TEAR
GAS CANNISTERS AT THE FARMERS FORCED THEM INTO A FENCED
AREA BEHIND THE CUSTOMS BUILDING, WHERE THEY WERE PUT INTO
WAITING BUSES AND TAKEN TO JAIL.

3. APPARENTLY THE STRIKERS SUCCEEDED IN THEIR MOVE TO GET
PUBLICITY AS THERE WERE UNTOLD NUMBERS OF NEWS REPORTERS
COVERING THIS EPISODE.
ARENZ

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Message Attributes

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